



Church of Jesus Christ

Mount Ayr Restoration Branch

NEWSLETTER

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*Oh sing unto the Lord
a new song; for he hath
done marvelous things.
Psalm 98:1*

*Rob Rolfe took part in the fifth
Sunday sharing service was
held in September
where music and
testimonies
were shared.
Make
plans to
participate
again in
December.*



News & Notes

Planning session

Several special events were planned by the branch at the planning session Sunday, Oct. 6.

In October there will be a baptismal service for Elise Jordison on Sunday, Oct. 13, a fall outing at the Barber farm on Saturday, Oct. 19, and the ordination service for Chris Cunningham Sunday, Oct. 20 with a

potluck dinner.

In November there will be the annual Thanksgiving dinner on Sunday, Nov. 24.

In December there will be the Book of Mormon musical in Independence, MO on Sunday, Dec. 8, the annual caroling party on Sunday, Dec. 15, and the New Year's Eve

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HAVE YOU ENTERED THE KINGDOM?

High Priest Rob Rolfe
Lamoni, Iowa
September 8, 2013

High Priest Rob Rolfe read his scripture reading from Luke 18:17-27. *Verily I say unto you, Whosoever will not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, shall in no wise enter therein. And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? None is good, save one, that is, God. Thou knowest the commandments; Do not commit adultery. Do not kill. Do not steal. Do not bear false witness. Honor thy father, and thy mother. And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up. Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet thou lackest one thing; sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven, and come, follow me. And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful; for he was very rich. And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they who have riches enter into the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. And they who heard, said unto him, Who then can be saved? And he said unto them, It is impossible for them who trust in riches, to enter into the kingdom of God; but he who forsaketh the things which are of this world, it is possible with God, that he should enter in.*

Brother Rolfe started his sermon with a few statements about the situation in which our nation finds itself.

On 7/12/13 CVS stores gave notice that it now requires an ID to buy nail polish remover. That is interesting, because you can vote in many places without an ID. That shows you how important nail polish is.

A default by the US on our national debt is close to certainty. Yet no one in Washington will even talk about it. We can expect at least 25% inflation when American dollar ceases to be the reserve currency in the world. If you don't know what a "reserve currency," you need to inform yourself.

Can any nation survive that allows millions of people to enter its country and immediately be eligible for billions of dollars of government services? We are certainly following the economic path that destroyed the Roman Empire. All of this clearly points to the need for Zion. When will we build Zion? It is sorely needed. It is the kingdom of heaven expressed in a group context.

I ask you this morning, have you entered the kingdom of heaven? When did you enter the kingdom? Remember Peter's journey?

Matthew 5 - Peter leaves boats

Luke 18:28 - Peter left all his worldly goods and followed Jesus

Matthew 14 - Peter walked on water

Matthew 16 - Spirit of God revealed unto him who Jesus was

But in Matthew 16 - Jesus said, "get thee behind me Satan"

Matthew 26 - I'll never be offended by Jesus, a few hours later he denied knowing Jesus. All of the disciples did this! Was Peter in the kingdom or not?

Let's join the meeting Jesus was having, as recorded in Luke 18. He had just said that unless you receive the king-

dom as a little child you will not enter the kingdom. One of the people in the crowd was interested in this topic to the point of asking Jesus, what one thing do I lack to enter into the kingdom? It might be well for each of us to stop every so often and ask ourselves, "What do we lack", that keeps us from entering the kingdom.

When the young man spoken of in the Scripture lesson came to Christ, Christ looked at him and loved him. He was a noble young man, we would say a good man, he kept all the commandments; but he tried to save himself by the law. He had the law and the prophets, but when Christ touched his heart—for he had his heart set on his possessions—he found that he did not love God with all his heart; he did not love his neighbor as himself. He thought he did, but he didn't know himself.

He spoke very well of himself; he had a good opinion of himself. There are a great many such people, and it is almost impossible for them to do good. Perhaps you are one of them. What do you lack this morning? Ask yourself that question honestly and see what Jesus' answer is for you.

In my scripture lesson, the rich young ruler came to Jesus. He only lacked one thing. In one sense, I wish I had only 1 thing that keeps me out of the kingdom of heaven. But, what if it were five "one things" or 10 "one things?"

Jesus said, "one thing thou lackest". Just one thing! All dead people lack is life. All that a beggar lacks is money. If you are sick, you only lack health. But, health is everything to a sick person. Money is everything to a poor person that needs everything. What if that one



thing was salvation? Don't you lack everything if you lack salvation?

The rich young ruler lacked one thing, and his lacking was deeper than being rich or poor. Being rich wasn't the cause of condition. The cause was trying to save himself by the law. Perhaps you have been trying to save yourself by the law. If I just could keep one more commandment, I would be in the kingdom.

Many people read these verses and equate wealth with sin and poor with righteousness. That reading is simply not true. All the Marxists in the world would like you to believe being poor makes you morally superior to those who are rich. It is projected as a class warfare battle. They read this scripture, "blessed are the poor", comma inserted. Proper punctuation saves lives! Consider the difference between, Let's eat, grandma and Let's eat grandma.

What did Jesus, in the sermon on the mount actually say? "Blessed are the poor in spirit, who come unto me, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven". Matthew 5:5 It's "poor in spirit", not poor. What he really is saying that a person that is not ruled by their wealth and are willing to give it all, (if that is what the Lord requires, is truly blessed.) The test is not whether they are rich or poor, but how they view their possessions.

You can find numerous examples in the scriptures of what the disciples thought on this subject and what Jesus said in this regard. The widow's mite, for example. Ananias and Sapphira, for example. The second chapter of Mosiah makes it clear to me, that the only morally sufficient reason not to give your resources to those in need, is because you don't have it. The underlying purpose for this rule is: You can be just as unloving and uncaring being a poor person, as being a rich person. The test is what is in your heart.

In America today -- one of the things we lack -- is due to our preoccupation with the appearance and acquisition of wealth. Both the poor and the rich suffer from this malady. Wealth is not bad or good in itself. It is our attachment to, and unwillingness to lay down that "good thing" that is bad. That is

why Jesus used the example of a "camel going through the eye of a needle", the rich (and some of the poor also) have great difficulty being willing to use their wealth for others. The message of Zion is that it CAN BE DONE! It not only can be done, we are commanded to do so. Let me read you two scriptures on this subject.

Jacob 2:24 "And after ye have obtained a hope in Christ, ye shall obtain riches, if ye seek them; and ye will seek them, for the intent to do good; to clothe the naked, and to feed the hungry, and to liberate the captive, and administer relief to the sick, and the afflicted."

"...let every man esteem his brother as himself, and practice virtue and holiness before me. And again I say unto you, Let every man esteem his brother as himself: for what man among you having twelve sons, and is no respecter to them, and they serve him obediently, and he saith unto the one, Be thou clothed in robes and sit thou here; and to the other, Be thou clothed in rags and sit thou there, and looketh upon his sons and saith, I am just. Behold, this I have given unto you a parable, and it is even as I am: I say unto you, Be one; and if ye are not one, ye are not mine." DC 38:5-6

Who is Jesus talking about here? Is it US, or someone else? Are we one, those who are in this room? If we are not one, Jesus says we don't belong to him! Most of us in the Restoration view the other guys as those that are not his. We are his. The other guys are not his. That view is scripturally not correct! Pure and simple!

It was very interesting to me that Pope Francis said (on May 26, 2013) "They complain," the Pope said in his homily, because they say, "If he is not one of us, he cannot do good. If he is not of our party, he cannot do good." And Jesus corrects them: "Do not hinder him, he says, let him do good." The disciples, Pope Francis explains, "were a little intolerant," closed off by the idea of possessing the truth, convinced that "those who do not have the truth, cannot do good." "This was wrong . . . Jesus broadens the horizon." Pope Francis said, "The root of this possibility of doing



Rob Rolfe

good -- that we all have -- is in creation."

Pope Francis went further in his sermon to say: "The Lord created us in His image and likeness, and we are the image of the Lord, and He does good and all of us have this commandment at heart: do good and do not do evil. All of us! 'But, Father, this is not Catholic! He cannot do good.' Yes, he can...!" "The Lord has redeemed all of us, all of us, with the Blood of Christ: all of us, not just Catholics. Everyone! 'Father, the atheists?' Even the atheists. Everyone!" I've never heard the Pope talk like that!

If you are living the same as your neighbors, you are not going to be one with Jesus. (Unless you are in Zion!) The kingdom of Jesus is something that if you really believed it, it would change your life and you would want to change [the lives] of others. I haven't seen too much of that in the saints. We don't want to live differently than our neighbors.

Let's consider the description of what Zion is: From Genesis 7:23

*Of one mind
Dwelt in righteousness
No poor among them.*

But before this description is given there is another description given of



Zion, which is more important than the "definition" of Zion. Gen 7:20 What is the description of Zion given before the one mind, dwelling in righteousness and having no poor? *"The Lord came and dwelt with his people, and they dwelt in righteousness."* The Lord wants to live with us. Would you want the Lord to live with you at your house? If he did would you change anything? Probably so. Probably so.

In the Book of Mormon we find in 4th Nephi 1:3 there were no contentions or disputations and that every man dealt justly one with another. How could this happen? The answer is in 4 Nephi 1:17--The love of God was in their hearts. Because of the love of God, they had all things common, no rich or poor, no bond or free.

Sadly today, we see many Christians who are not really sold out to God. They are believers in word only. They say they are believers, but they do not believe in their hearts. These people are inhabitants of Jerusalem, they inhabit many Christian faiths and inhabit so many of our restoration churches. They profess belief with their mouth, but their hearts do not believe.

What do you lack this morning? Do you have just one thing or more than one thing that keeps you from entering the kingdom of God? I suggest to you that one of the things we lack is that we think we are right, but we are wrong. About many things! We think we are right, but we're not. For example, Adam and Eve didn't get in trouble for eating an apple. Is that a true statement or not? Do you believe it is true? It has been said it wasn't the apple on the tree but the pear (pair) on the ground. If you believe the scriptures say Adam and Eve ate an apple, you are wrong. There was no apple mentioned in the Garden of Eden in connection with Adam and Eve. Check it out for yourself. Genesis 3 is where you will find the answer.

Whether it is Bible doctrine, politics, family life or whatever, too often we make decisions based on what we think or what our friends think or both. But to make decisions is not to make the truth. The truth already exists. All that is needed is simply the power to see it,

and when all see it, all will see it alike. Because...it is the truth.

If it is the truth, we can see it, (if we are not blind.) The Book of Mormon tells us the way to judge is as plain as daylight is from dark. (Moroni 7:13) Can you tell the difference between dark and light? You can, unless you are blind.

What do we yet lack this morning? I can't tell you what you lack, but I know what I lack. The most important thing I lack is that I have not turned over every part of my life to God. There is always a part that I want to keep back. This fact became clear to me when I was asking the Lord when the prophet of power was going to come forth. He asked me if I was willing to be that prophet. I was not! Not me! Don't ask me to do it! I wanted someone else to suffer and maybe die, but I didn't want to do it.

In that experience I realized that I wasn't as committed as I thought I was. In a real sense, I was like the rich young ruler. I couldn't take that last step. I was like Ananias and Sapphira. I wanted to keep something back and not commit everything. If we are ever going to be a part of Zion, there is no holding back.

Why hasn't Zion been built? It isn't because we need more instruction! We don't make it into the kingdom of God by what we have in our heads. Jesus said to Nicodemus, YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN...OF THE WATER AND THE SPIRIT! I think we have lost the fire. If we are going to be a part of Zion, we need to rekindle the fire in our lives! We need to make a covenant of fire with God. Something like this,

Covenant: God, My life is no longer mine!

My talents are no more mine!

My gifts are no more mine!

My money and possessions are no more mine!

They are yours for your use!

I will no more consider everything mine!

I will consider everything Your's!

Do any of us lack something this morning that will keep us from making this covenant? Is it one thing or more than one thing? The rich young ruler

asked, What lack I yet? Are you willing to give that prayer to God this morning? What lack I yet?

One of the problems we have, and one of the things we lack, is a clear vision of where we are going? A clear vision of where we want to be in one month, one year, five years and so forth. We all think we are OK. We're not bad people. We're doing better than most other Americans. But if our way seems right to us, we may be in trouble. "

There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. (Proverbs 14:1) Do you want to find the way to the Kingdom of God this morning? Right now! You have to decide what you want most in this life. This is so very important. There is a conversation between Alice in Wonderland and the cat that I like. Alice is lost and asks the cat what to do.

Alice: Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?

The Cat: That depends a good deal on where you want to get to

Alice: I don't much care where.

The Cat: Then it doesn't much matter which way you go.

Alice:...so long as I get somewhere.

The Cat: Oh, you're sure to do that, if only you walk long enough.

What lack I yet, asked the rich young ruler. He lacked one thing. We in our judgmental attitude say, that rich guy got what was coming to him. Rich people can't get into the kingdom because they are selfish and self centered, and...so forth.

Remember this! Spiritual transformation is hard. Sometimes it takes a long time. How many people do you think have gone to church for decades and remain joyless, or judgmental or bitter or superior? I hope no one is one of that group. Remember DC 3:16, Behold, this is my doctrine: *Whosoever repenteth and cometh unto me, the same is my church; whosoever declareth more or less than this, the same is not of me, but is against me; therefore, he is not of my church.*





HOW IS YOUR PRAYER LIFE?

Elder Michael Jordison
Lamoni, Iowa
June 16, 2013

Gordon Winkler who presided over the service used Titus 2:11-15 as a Call to Worship. *For the grace of God which bringeth salvation to all men, hath appeared; Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.*

Michael Jordison shared from Moroni 7. The heading of this chapter says, *And now, I Moroni, write a few of the words of my father Mormon, which he spake concerning faith, hope and charity . . . Starting in verse 2 he says, And now I, Mormon, speak unto you, my beloved brethren; and it is by the grace of God, the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, and his holy will, because of the gift of his calling unto me, that I am permitted to speak unto you at this time; Wherefore I would speak unto you that are of the church, that are the peaceable followers of Christ, and that have obtained a sufficient hope, by which ye can enter into the rest of the Lord, from this time henceforth, until ye shall rest with him in heaven. And now my brethren, I judge these things of you because of your peaceable walk with the children of men; for I remember the word of God, which saith, By their works ye shall know them; for if their works be good, then they are good also. For behold, God hath said, A man*

being evil, can not do that which is good; for if he offereth a gift, or prayeth unto God, except he shall do it with real intent, it profiteth him nothing. For behold, it is not counted unto him for righteousness. For behold, if a man being evil, giveth a gift, he doeth it grudgingly; wherefore it is counted unto him the same as if he had retained the gift; wherefore he is counted evil before God. And likewise also is it counted evil unto a man, if he shall pray, and not with real intent of heart; yea, and it profiteth him nothing; for God receiveth none such; wherefore, a man being evil, can not do that which is good; neither will he give a good gift. For behold, a bitter fountain can not bring forth good water; neither can a good fountain bring forth bitter water; wherefore a man being a servant of the devil, can not follow Christ; and if he follow Christ, he can not be a servant of the devil.

I'm not sure where to begin this morning. I had some notes prepared but I'm probably going to jumble everything together (which is what I usually do anyway). I hope, by the grace of God, that you are able to make something of it this morning. Rather than start out the way I was going to I'd like to reread a portion of the scripture verse that our Brother Gordon brought us this morning. If you have your scriptures this is a good time to open them up to Titus.

What I'm going to share with you this morning ties in with the call to worship that was shared with us. *For the grace of God which bringeth salvation to all men, hath appeared;* (meaning Jesus Christ) *Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, (to do that) we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.* Really, I think that is the struggle that we all have, isn't it? We all have to live in this world,

but our goal as Christians is to live as godly, as soberly, and as righteously as we possibly can. Somehow or other, if you are anything like me, you muck that up because things in life just seem to get in the way and distract us from our goal.

The world comes to us and says, 'Hey, follow me this way or that way down these easy roads.' The next thing you know you are spread so thin and are going in all different directions. You have forgotten what's important. We might have a goal of living in Zion or living in the Kingdom, but the journey to get there has to be paramount. And when distracted or misled by going down the roads of the world- living godly, soberly and righteously loses prominence. Without following the way set before us in Truth -- the narrow path -- we cannot hope to achieve any goal of living in the Kingdom.

What is the important thing that we so easily forget? Let me put it this way. If I were to ask you what is the gospel? What is the gospel of Jesus Christ on a very basic and straightforward level? It's a relationship. We often talk about the principles of the gospel (faith, repentance, baptism, etc), church priesthood, structure and history as if they are the "gospel" or good news with which we need to share with others in order to "bring them into the fold". But the reality is that the gospel is about a relationship between a father and His children, or on a more personal level it's about a relationship between God and you. It's about a relationship with Jesus Christ. It's something that is personal.

Now, I cannot have a personal relationship with Pat if I never talk to her or if I never see her, send her a card or an email or anything like that. She and I will never have a personal relation-



ship without some kind of intimate and meaningful interaction. I can send out group emails to everybody in this building but that will not give me a relationship with Pat on a personal level.

When we are baptized unto Christ through the water we are committing ourselves to follow Jesus Christ on a personal and intimate level. That requires that we have some kind of interaction with Christ. In verse 13 of Titus 2 he says, *Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*

That's a powerful passage of scripture if you really look at it. The very heart of the gospel is in that scripture. We may not know all things or be able to understand all things or have a full knowledge of the scriptures. There are things in the scriptures that I don't know and things that I forget but the more important thing is that I developed and maintain a relationship with Jesus. And through that relationship with Him, He's going to begin to unfold some of those things that I don't know about in the scriptures or things that I have and will forget.

Brother Gordon Winkler gave a really good Father's Day sermon a few Sundays ago. At least I thought it was a really good Father's Day sermon. I can't go back and tell you all of the details but one of the things that he shared in his sermon was about the parable of the prodigal son. You know that parable. We've all heard it many times. It's the same story in the hymn we sang a little bit ago, Amazing Grace. It says, 'I was lost but now am found.' When I've read the parable of the prodigal son I have always related to the son because I identify most often with the one who goes his own way. I identify with the prodigal because I am a sinner and I need to come back to my Father so many times to ask for His forgiveness- to reconcile with Him. That's always what that parable has meant to me- that God still loves even me when I return to Him.

However, when Gordon shared this

parable he shared it from a different perspective - that of the wayward son's father. All of a sudden I understood it in a whole new way.

Though I have been a wayward son, I am also now a father and I know what it's like to have my own children. I know what it's like to care for them unconditionally no matter what they have done. When we look at things from God's perspective it opens up a whole new realm of possibilities for us in our relationships with each other, with our own children and of course with our heavenly Father.

All of a sudden now I see myself in the role that God desires for me, and I begin to understand that I have certain responsibilities that He has placed upon me as a father and as a parent. The way that God relates with His children is the pattern that I am to follow in relating to my own. And not just my own, but unto all those whom God grants me the opportunities to have influence over. I must begin to relate to my children on a whole new level. When I have grandchildren I expect it will be the same.

I'm not going to go back over Gordon's sermon. I think if you have time each of you should go back and read it. It's impossible for us to understand things from God's perspective unless we have His spirit with us. It's impossible for us to do anything without His spirit leading us and that's one of the things that I would like to share this morning.

The thoughts that have come to me for this morning were borne from prayer service on Wednesday night. That night I listened to Sister Diane Anderson in her very heartfelt prayer. She simply asked the Lord to show her what to pray for in a trying situation. I don't know her situation or the circumstances that led up to her prayer but I can tell you that I've had many times in my life where I've been completely exasperated. I have prayed for things or been concerned about certain things and finally got to the point where I wondered what was the point in praying? I felt I didn't even know what to pray for anymore and I didn't know what the right answer

was. Have you felt like that?

I believe God allows us to feel that way because those are the teachable moments when He can communicate with us. Sometimes we are so guarded that we can't even let God in to work with us. Those moments when we just throw our hands up in desperation are the times when we give up our will and desires because they don't seem to be working. When we pray as we believe things should be done we aren't resigned to really have God's will be done. And so God waits for us to weary with our struggle until we come to Him in desperation, because that's usually when we are ready to let Him do His thing.

We all know that we are commanded to pray, right? When we are baptized in the Church of Jesus Christ our daily walk requires that we engage in prayer. I'd like to read from the book of Moroni 6:5. He's talking about those who were brought into the covenant of the church. *And their names were taken, that they might be remembered and nourished by the good word of God, to keep them in the right way, to keep them continually watchful unto prayer, relying alone upon the merits of Christ, who was the author and the finisher of their faith.*

Now we talk about faith a lot of times, don't we? Nothing good can be done without faith. All things are done by faith in and through Christ. I believe that prayer is fundamental and foundational for us in order to even have faith.

What is prayer to you? If we are going to converse with God what do we need to have? We have to know first that He's there and then who He is. In the adult class this morning we saw that many of the ancient Israelites were praying to other gods and sacrificing their children to those other gods. If we are going to pray to the one true God we have to know who the one true God is, right?

Prayer is communication. If we are going to communicate it requires that we actually interact. Sometimes I talk at Julia. I don't talk to her I talk at her. When I do I'm not really ever listening if she offers something in response because that's not important to me.



What's important to me is only what I have to say. That's not interactive communication is it? That's not two-way communication. Prayer is a two-way communication between us and God. The reason why I am bringing this up is because last Wednesday while I was listening to Diane's prayer, the question that came to me was 'what should I pray for?' What should she pray for? The thought came to me that she and I and you needed to pray for Zion. Do you pray for Zion? And if so what does that really mean anyway? If you did pray for Zion what would you mean by that?

When we look at examples of prayer in the scriptures Jesus taught His disciples the Lord's Prayer. The first thing that He taught His disciples to pray after He addressed His Father, *Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name, was Thy kingdom come Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.* This prayer has a lot of different layers. The part that I would like to talk about is the Kingdom of God. What is that scripture verse that you learned, Elyse? *The kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.* Romans 14:17

Doing a simple substitution what's one of the things that we should pray for? 'Thy righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost come' and then He says 'Thy will be done'. God's will cannot be done until we have His righteousness and His peace and His joy resonant, living inside of us. It cannot happen!

And we cannot really exercise faith unless we have a prayer life. Unless we are able to talk to God we can't really have faith. Faith is a verb. It's an action. It requires movement on something that we believe. You cannot act on something that is spiritual in nature or eternal in nature until you have a relationship established with Him who is eternal - with Jesus Christ.

So if we really pray for Zion, we are praying for the righteousness of God to become our nature - for us to walk godly and soberly by the power of the Holy Ghost. When that occurs His kingdom will be established within us individually and then hopefully as a united church body fulfilling the calling and mission

that He has set for us.

Going back to my opening scripture in Moroni 7, Mormon says, *Wherefore I would speak unto you that are of the church, that are the peaceable followers of Christ . . . if he . . . prayeth unto God, except he shall do it with real intent, it profiteth him nothing.* Now I have had lots of days where I haven't prayed. I'll be honest with you. I went through the entire day and I never said anything to God and never even thought about God because I was too busily engaged with the world.

Now I am hoping that the rest of you haven't been in that situation but it's possible. What about more than one day, maybe two or three days? Have you ever gone through two or three days where you didn't pray or even think about God? What about a week? Have you ever gone a whole week without really praying. How about a month? Who remembers the story of the Brother of Jared in the Book of Mormon? Let's talk about him for just a second.

Who was the Brother of Jared? Well obviously he was Jared's brother. The Brother of Jared was the spiritual leader of that family. He's the one that the family went to when God confounded all of the languages at the great tower. They went to him and asked him to pray to God that He would keep their language all the same so that they were not disbursed and drift away like everybody else was. He was looked up to by his family. He was also the guy that said unto the mountain Zerin, *Remove, and it was removed.* (Ether 5:30)

I don't know exactly what this means. If it went flat or if it slid off to the side or what happened. maybe there was a big earthquake that swallowed it up? It doesn't really matter, but the scriptures say that he told that mountain to get out of the way and it left. That's a man that has some serious faith wouldn't you say? He's also the one that went up into the mountain and molten out of rock sixteen stones. He saw the finger of God as it touched each stone. He's also the same guy that had a revelation of all things from the beginning of time unto the end. That's pretty power-

ful. Not many people that I'm aware of have had an experience like that.

This guy, who had the faith to do all these things, was the same guy that talked with God and was led out of the Sumer region in Iraq to the seashore. The scriptures say that they were there for four years. They rested on the shore of the water for four years. And then one day the Lord came to the Brother of Jared and said, 'Hey, mister you haven't been praying to me.' For four years he didn't pray to God. Four years! For three hours the Brother of Jared was chastised for not praying.

Now I've had conversations with my parents that I didn't like and they lasted nowhere near three hours. I guarantee you that a three-hour session with God about your failure is not a good thing. But God was able to continue to use him after he repented. What I am trying to say is that we all forget and even the greatest of us have times or seasons that we go through where we are not actively communicating with God.

If I look back in my life I honestly can say that from a certain point of time when I truly began to have an awareness of Christ and the gospel that I haven't had years or months or weeks where I never offered a prayer to God. Yes, there have been days and several days



Michael Jordison



strung together where I neglected him but I've always tried to offer up some kind of prayer eventually. I don't know about any of you struggling with prayer but there is more to it than offering up words with an Amen at the end. The scripture says that unless we pray with real intent it profits us nothing.

If I went back and looked at my life I am going to guess that there are a lot of times when I was praying to God that I really wasn't talking with God. I was talking at God and was just throwing things out there. Who knows maybe I did go through weeks, months or years where my prayers, even though I thought I was praying to God, really didn't amount to a hill of beans, where there wasn't any substance to them. I might as well not even have said anything and probably if I looked at it objectively it probably did me more harm to pray that way than if I wouldn't have prayed at all. I was deceived in that I thought that those idle words I was praying were of value and so there really wasn't any introspection or evaluation of my poor relationship with God. I thought that I was talking to God so I must be OK.

To come before God in prayer is to seek Him. When we pray to God without seeking Him we are not praying. It doesn't matter what we say. It really doesn't even matter what we do. The point is to seek the heart and the mind and the will of God in our prayers. We look at Moroni 7 and his admonition to our generation, *wo unto this generation if miracles cease*. Because if the miracles cease and angels cease appearing unto men it's because there is a lack of faith.

So we understand we have to start exercising our faith more. We believe that we have to start reading the scriptures or follow a study program or go to more services so that we can strengthen our faith. Those these are good things, the exercising of our faith can only begin through prayer - through honest and sincere interaction with God through the Holy Ghost.

Let me share a little story that happened just a few weeks ago. When Julia and I have a little confrontation or contention and things heat up my spiritual

life goes downhill. I don't know if that happens to you but for some reason if things aren't connecting here (between her and I) things aren't going to connect up here (between God and I) either. Sometimes when we get really angry at other people we don't want to pray.

So I was sharing with a friend of mine about this kind of a situation, and I was telling him that when I am having this conflict I needed to get right with Julia because if I didn't get it right with her I was not going to get right with God. My friend looked at me and said, 'Michael, you've got it all wrong. You've got it backwards. If your connection with God isn't happening then your connection with Julia won't.'

If I've got a problem with my spouse or my children or coworkers or whom-ever, there is a responsibility to make it right with that individual. What has to happen first is our relationship with God has to be restored. Through our relationship with God we then have the power to restore any other relationship that is in need. And it's really hard for your relationship with others to crumble away when you are talking on a daily basis on an intimate basis with God, when you are praying with real intent.

If you can get that relationship with God built back up it makes reconciliation with an individual so much easier or even possible because sometimes this reconciliation doesn't ever happen if it's left to itself. Sometimes you just can't restore a relationship with people. It's only by the grace of God that any intervention can come.

When we pray why don't we just say, 'God, please help everybody.' Wouldn't we like to have God help everybody? Or God help the orphans or make things better over there in the Middle East. Do you think that is a prayer with real intent? We want all of these things to happen but what does it say about our relationship with God if our prayers are filled up with all kinds of generalities. As Christians, brother and sisters, we start out with the 'milk' and then we grow to where we can handle the 'meat'. We need to be praying the 'meat'.

Sometimes we just don't know what

to pray for and sometimes we have to pray in generalities, but I think what God really wants for us to do is to open up ourselves to His spirit so that we can discern the needs of those whom we are praying for. When we pray in the spirit that's when God can talk to our head and our heart. We can hear and perceive and then we can also hear with our heart and have understanding. We can really begin to not only nourish that relationship with God but we can allow those kinds of prayers and the understanding that comes from God while we're praying for an individual to allow us to move and make an impact in that person's life in some capacity.

Now all of a sudden as we are praying we are opening up ourselves to God, who is saying, 'You need to pray for this individual for this particular reason. I've given you gifts and I've given you talents and I commission you to make a change or difference in that person's life.'

He wants us to be ministers, all of us, of this generation. He wants us to succor those people that stand in need. We can't do that effectively unless we begin to pray, we begin to open up those channels with God and pray according to the power of His spirit, according to the power of the Holy Ghost. When we talk about praying for the kingdom, for Zion those are the kinds of things that we can do. Those are the kinds of differences that we can make. If we want faith we need to begin to exercise our prayer life in a new and greater capacity. We can make a change not in just our own lives but in the lives and the health of this congregation and the communities that we live in.

I fully believe God wants a peculiar people. He wants a people that are fully devoted unto Him that look a little bit different, that talk a little bit different, that walk a little bit different, that act a little strange according to the world. Those are the people that He's looking for. There should be something about us that people see when they look at us. There is something different about a saint, isn't there? You just watch them for a little bit and you can see it. That's where we need to be.



I think that what God has shared with me this past week and would like for me to share with you is the fact that if we'll open up these channels with God and begin to not just pray these general prayers but start to ask open-ended questions. Instead of praying, 'God, help me find a job.' We can say, 'God, what do you want me to do?' When we say, 'God, help me find a job' we're just kind of throwing that out there and expecting that God will do whatever He needs to do to make that happen. We might even have faith that He'll do that, but when we say, 'God, what will you have me do? What kind of work do you want me to find?' All of a sudden we've taken that exercise in faith and turned it to where we're expecting God to not just provide, but to answer. It means we're not just hoping and expecting something, but that we're actually listening for the wisdom of God.

If we say, 'God, what do you want me to do?' and then we just turn away then what's He going to do? Most probably nothing, because we're not listening. What I'm asking that each one of us take a little time to evaluate ourselves, evaluate our prayer life and maybe be-

gin to make the changes that will enable us to communicate on a more intimate level with God, a more relational way with Him. Instead of talking at God we need to be talking with Him.

I've had lots of positive experiences in my life where as I am praying it's given to me what to pray for. Through administrations that has happened but also in my secret place, my closet where I've opened up that channel and all of a sudden my mouth and my tongue is filled with those things of the spirit which brings to my mind things that I hadn't thought of. Then all of a sudden I'm able to start acting upon that information that God has shared with me. The words that we pray really don't mean anything to God, just the verbalization per se. He knows what we're going to pray before it even comes out of our mouth. As he listens to us pray He's not looking for something that He can respond to, He's looking for us to respond to Him. Does that make sense?

I made a list of all the different things that we could pray for and there's hundreds of things that have been prayed for and that we could pray for but the one

that I'd like to turn your attention to in closing is found in Moroni 7:53. We're supposed to pray unceasingly it says. So does that mean that we're going to pray for all those hundreds of things that we know we're supposed to and those many things we've got going in our lives and then when we get to the end of those lists we just start over again? I don't think that's what that means. To pray unceasingly is to let our hearts be drawn out in communication with him ready to not only speak, but to listen.

If we could only pray for one thing with real intent this is what we should pray for. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love which he hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of his Son Jesus Christ. Let me reread that. . . . that ye may be filled with this love which he hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of his Son Jesus Christ, that ye may become the sons of God, that when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is, that we may have this hope, that we may be purified even as he is pure. Amen.



FIVE-MINUTE PSALMS

As part of a Sunday evening activity, we sang Psalm hymns, read some Psalms and then had a few minutes to write our own psalms. David probably had more time. Here are the remainder of the Psalms that were shared last month.

I am nothing Lord
You are everything.
I am weak
You are strong.
I stumble
You walk uprightly.
I cry in the night
You sing in the light.
I often falter
You are steadfast.
How do you see your image in me?
It must be the love in your eyes.

-- Ron

Oh Lord, my Father,
All praise be to you!
Your creation warms my heart
Each new day.
The wonders of your handiwork
Continue to amaze me.
Thank you Lord,
For all you have done for me:
For family, for food, for shelter,
For music, and the beauty around me,
For the joy of knowing you
And living in your world,
For the promise of your Kingdom now,
And of Zion yet to be.
Oh Lord, my Father,
All praise be to you.

-- Di Smith



THANKS BE TO GOD

Elder Gordon Winkler
Mount Ayr, Iowa
September 22, 2013

Priest Rodney Bastow used Psalm 28:7 as a Call to Worship. *The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.*

The scripture reading for this morning and the point of our reflection is the 100th Psalm. *Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God; it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise; be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.*

Rodney mentioned that I got a phone call Ron Smith Thursday evening and he asked me if I could speak today. He had been asked to be a part of the missionary effort with the Seventy in Osceola, IA. He hated to decline that because of the preaching assignment that he had here so he asked me if I would take his place.

It's not that I was reluctant to do this but you need to know that it takes me a while to come up with and formulate a theme and develop what I want to speak about. It's not easy for me to do that on short notice but I told him that I thought it was my obligation to help support the Seventy in their effort in Osceola. Coincidentally I had been taking notes and listing some scriptures that I thought that I might want to talk about in the future so I kind of had a head start on speaking today.

My agenda this morning just so you know is in three parts. I'd like to review and spend a little bit of time talking about the 100th Psalm. The 100th Psalm

in a very few verses expresses the nature of God, our relationship to Him and the reasons that we have to be thankful and to praise Him. Then I'd like to reflect on an email that many of you have probably seen that came from Kyle Chown and then I'd like to share two accounts from the Book of Mormon about people that have trusted and were thankful to God. My hope this morning is that we can raise our awareness of how much we have to be thankful for and the importance of thanking God, the source of all our blessings.

How many of you thought yesterday was a beautiful day? I thought it was just absolutely gorgeous. Did you stop to thank God for that? Did you thank Him for the sunshine, for the blue sky, for the calm conditions and moderate temperature? Did you consider thanking Him for your eyesight so that you could see that creation? We have ponds behind our house and Saturday morning it was just gorgeous. The mist was lifting up off the ponds because of the cool weather. There were water fowl and birds out on the pond and the flowers in the garden were still there for us to see because God had blessed us with eyesight.

Did you thank Him for your strength to work yesterday or for your ability to walk or your ability to lift? Did you thank Him for your companionship to share the day, for your friends, for your family, your husbands or wives, for your brothers and sisters, for your mothers, fathers and grandparents? Did you think to thank Him for that companionship?

Did you eat yesterday? We spent the morning canning things out of our garden. We did 45 pints of tomatoes but the most exciting part for me yesterday was I when I dug up the carrots. I don't know how many of you are successful with planting carrots but I've never been very successful. I dug up carrots that were 6 to 10 inches long and as big

around as my thumb. They were just beautiful so I got to thank the Lord for having carrots.

We also need to thank God for the knowledge that we have on how to process and can food so that we have them through the winter. Linda Barber and Jim Barber, Lynda Rolfe and Steve and Elaina Smith did grape juice a week or so ago so that we have wine for our communion services. What a blessing and how thankful we are for that.

Did you thank God for another day of life? Did you thank Him for being a loving God? There are many, many more things we could and should be thanking God for. We need to stop and consider what God has done for us and be happy and praise His name as the psalmist says. One more time I'd like to read the 100th Psalm: *Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God; it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise; be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.*

It's not uncommon to compile a list at Christmas or to draw up a list of resolutions for New Year's or to make a grocery list to go shopping. Maybe there is another list we should consider, a list of all for which we are thankful, a list to thank God for.

I read an email that listed things that housewives and mothers were especially thankful for. I won't share all of them but here are a couple I thought were very interesting. Remember these are from mothers and housewives.

For children who put away their things and clean up after themselves. They are such a joy you hate to see them go home to their parents.

For teenagers because they give parents the opportunity to learn a second



language.

For smoke alarms because they let you know when the turkey's done.

Our list might not be the same as this but I'm convinced that if we began to make a list we would find that we have much more for which we are to be thankful than just over a few material possessions. Like many of you I'm sure my list would include the major things like life, health, family and friends.

Last Wednesday night at prayer service I heard Jim Barber say he was thankful for his church family and glad to meet together to share in prayer and testimony. I also heard Brother Sherman express the same sentiments when he returned from his motorcycle trip to Tennessee. He shared the opportunities that they had out there and the beauty of the countryside and the enjoyment that he had in riding but expressed that he was glad to be home with his church family and that he thanked God for being able to be a part of our group.

Even more than that, I am thankful for God's promise of salvation and the mercy that God bestows upon us every day. I was really touched by Kyle Chown's email that Cheryl posted so that we could all read it. I'm sure some of you have not seen it so I want to share that with you and express some thoughts about that. Kyle Chown is Sherman and Cheryl's grandson, a young man who has battled cancer for the last five years. Kyle recognizes that there's been a lot of prayers offered on his behalf and people have expressed a lot of strength from knowing what he is going through but he wanted us to hear from him and this is what he wrote in his email.

In these past five to five and a half years of fighting cancer, many people have told me that I inspire them, or that it amazes them that I'm always so positive, or that it seems like nothing much gets me down. These sentiments, although very kind and most always sincere, are not true.

I have bad days, just like everyone. And the past month and a half or so has been home to almost more bad days than I care to admit. Particularly the last week. I finally came home from the

hospital and had time to think about the time that had passed since my diagnosis early in August.

This third diagnosis has been the most difficult to understand. The first one was shocking, but I was younger and less weary. The second diagnosis made me grim, but I accepted it and knew what to expect. And eventually, as in the first time, I promised to myself and to God that I would turn my cancer into an opportunity and do my best to show the world that bad things never really happen to good people. This third time though- this third time has surprised me, as when the last piece of a puzzle doesn't fit, and there are no pieces left.

I *am at a time in my life where cancer just doesn't fit in- I had a fantastic first year at college in Missouri, and I was ready for another one. I was, and am, eager to pursue and savor the rest of my life. (How many of you have been through a difficult experience? How many of you have been through that difficult experience three times? That's what Kyle is expressing. What it's like to go through that kind of an experience three times.)*

And these last five days or so especially, I have struggled to see where my life is heading. All I have been able to see recently, like many times before, has been an uncertain path. Like looking down a winding road your deepest friend has just started on, or down a deep hole containing something you've just dropped- something so dear, it's a piece of you-, or at an unreadable stranger offering answer to your request for directions...

Although I have struggled before too, I have always been able to shake off my mind's troubles and trust in the Lord. But because I can't see where I'm going now, at this particular transitional time in my life, I've been struggling to trust, and I've let myself lose motivation. Today, that changed- and though I hadn't realized it, God has been giving me signs for days.

Three days ago, a neighbor unexpectedly gave us tickets to a movie that featured a man who lost many things- his job, his home, etc.- but learned to trust God and see him in the million little things that make up the world.

Two days ago, I happened to start read-

ing a book that started off with a man who had undergone a major test of trust in the previous days, but had obviously chosen to not only trust in God, but to act on His promptings. Yesterday, I decided to color a picture at the suggestion of some of my friends (a seemingly simple activity, but although I enjoy looking at art, I'm not good at it, and generally avoid it. I probably participate in artistic activities no more than twice a year.). Motivating myself to color that picture, then, in my current circumstances, was actually really hard.

Once I'd done it though, I experienced that feeling you get when you try something new and interesting. But deeper down, I also felt a small feeling of victory. Later that day I found a penny, which reminded me of my dad. Whenever I find coins, he asks me, "Does it say it on there?" I always examine the coin closely, even though I know the answer, then read aloud, "In God We Trust." Yep it's there".

Later, my mom and I watched a movie (we like watching movies, if you can't tell) that featured a soldier who struggled with apathy after losing someone he loved, but in the end decided to continue to seek adventures and ways to help people, even though he didn't know where to



Gordon Winkler



start. Finally, when my mom and I were going out of the theater, we ran into one of my old baseball coaches and his wife, who told me that she was well on her way to becoming a nurse, after going back to college. She then told me that she still remembers a day when I had told her that I thought she would make a good oncology nurse, and how that had stuck with her to the day. I was humbled, and grateful to her for telling me. I was reminded. God works in mysterious ways. Sometimes those ways are big, and sometimes he moves in small and sure and surprising but plain ways. And anyone who has ever been down, which is everyone, can tell you that sometimes the small things become big.

People can say that I'm inspiring, but in truth, I get just as frustrated and mentally low as anybody else. But the Lord, who has blessed me in this way more times than I can probably imagine, always lends me hope when I need it, and trust soon follows.

If you're ever feeling low, find the courage to look for those small things in life. (And I'll add as the psalmist would say, 'Thank God.')

The 100th Psalm was written for the people of Israel. God said to them, 'When you come into the promised land, and settle down in your warm homes, and have plenty to eat, don't forget me. I led you out of the wilderness into a land flowing with milk and honey.' It didn't take very long to realize that the people of Israel needed to be reminded. I'm afraid that we need to be reminded too. Maybe Kyle is our reminder. Maybe God had us in mind also when this psalm was written. Did you notice to whom it was addressed? The first verse says that it was addressed to 'all the earth,' and the last verse says that that includes all generations. This message of thanking God is so deep and wide that it applies to every person in every era and every stage of life.

I think there is something about giving thanks together to God that breaks down barriers between people and brings much unity. I think also that there is a real danger of determining our thankfulness on the basis of how much we have. Do I have enough food

to gorge myself sufficiently? Is my money in the bank secure? Am I healthy? We let these things determine whether or not we're thankful. The psalmist says that all these things may change at any time. They may drift away or burn up or someone might steal them. The only thing we have for sure is our relationship with the Lord.

That is what the 100th Psalm emphasizes. Let's scan the psalm again. In verse one you'll find the name of the Lord. In verse two you'll find the name of the Lord. In verse three you'll find the name of the Lord. In verse four he says, 'Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,' and in verse five you'll find the name of the Lord the center of our thankfulness to the Lord.

How many of you have heard of the author Alex Haley? He wrote the book, *Roots* probably in the 1970s or 1980s. Alex Haley had an unusual picture hanging on his office wall. It was a picture of a turtle on top of a fence post. When asked why it was there he answered, 'Every time I write something significant, every time I read my words and think that they are wonderful and began to feel proud of myself I look at the turtle on the top of the fence post and remember that he didn't get there by himself. He needed help.' That is the basis of thankfulness to remember that we got here with the help of God and that he is the provider of every good blessing that we've received.

Now as we look more carefully at this psalm we find that there is a series of five commands. The first command is in verse one. Shout for joy to the Lord all the earth. It means to shout with the force of a trumpet blast, to shout to the Lord from the depths of your very being. Maybe He solved your problem. Maybe He has given you direction to go. Maybe He has provided a blessing to you and you realize that it has come from God so with the depth of your being proclaim His praise.

The second command, 'Serve the Lord with gladness.' It doesn't say serve the church. It doesn't say serve the preacher, serve the church leaders or serve the organization. It says to serve

the Lord. The Bible teaches that if we witness on behalf of the Lord we will feed the hungry, clothe the naked and do the work of the Lord. Whatever that might be we are serving the Lord.

In the 25th chapter of Matthew verse 41 Jesus says, *Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.* I'm not sure that we totally grasp that. Maybe we serve at times out of a feeling of obligation or a fear of guilt if we don't serve or maybe even because we want to just be a part of the group. It's natural for us to desire appreciation when we do something that is worthwhile but the psalmist says, 'In whatever you do serve the Lord with gladness.'

The third command is to come before Him with joyful song. If you look across the page you'll see Psalm 98:4 which says, *Make a joyful noise unto the Lord . . .* I just want to remind you that next Sunday you'll have ample opportunity for that because that is a Sharing Service so be ready to make a joyful noise to the Lord. Have you noticed that in the first three commands God said I want you to be happy, shout with joy, serve with gladness and come with joyful songs? I just want you to take a quick peak at the person next to you. Do they look happy? Do you think they could shout with joy? I hope so. The psalmist continues and says to come before Him and serve Him and sing His praise with joy in your heart.

Command number four says to know that the Lord is God. It is He that hath made us and we are His. We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. God took every bone, every joint and put us together with sinew and muscle and covered us with skin and gave us eyes to see, ears to hear, a brain so that we could think, fingers that we can pick things up with. God made each one of us inside and out. He made you the way He wanted you to be and He made me the way He wanted me to be. That is a mystery to me.

I don't understand why but somehow in God's providence He decided that He wanted a rather tall, balding man, not too good looking, not out-



standing in anything, just a faithful father and husband who would keep plodding along. So he made me. Some place along the way He had you in mind and He made you also. He is still making us. That is important to realize too.

He's not satisfied with the unfinished product. He's not satisfied with your faults. He's not satisfied with the weak areas of your life where you give into temptation so He is still making us and He is still working in our lives. God is your maker and my maker. He created you and me in His image; therefore, give Him thanks for who you are.

Then the psalmist says, *We are His people and the sheep of His pasture*. The truth of the matter is most of us would rather be the shepherd than the sheep. It's not any fun being the sheep we say but the problem is we don't know where the still waters are, where the green pastures are and every time we go out searching for them we invariably end up in a far country. He is saying, you be the sheep and let me be the shepherd and I will lead you beside the still waters and the green pastures. Just let me lead. I know where they are.

The fifth command is this. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise. Give thanks to Him and praise His name for the Lord is good and His love endures forever. His faithfulness continues through all generations.

In the Old Testament the temple symbolized the presence of God so whenever the people came to the temple and entered the courtyards they knew that they had come into the presence of God. Now we don't have a temple that exists but oftentimes the place where we need to worship at is called the sanctuary, indicating that God is there but we all know and realize that God is everywhere. He is with you as you drive on the highway. He is with you at work. He is with you as you care for your children. He is with you in school. He is with you every moment of your life. One of my favorite bumper stickers says that As long as there are tests in school there will always be prayer.

Let's take a moment here and think about the source of our thanksgiving.

What if God began to treat us like we often treat Him? What if God met our needs to the same extent that we give Him our lives? What if God stopped loving and caring for us because we failed to love and care for others? What if God took away His message because we didn't listen to His messengers? What if He wouldn't bless us today because we didn't thank Him for yesterday? What if God answered our prayers the way we answer His call for service? What if God decided to stop leading us tomorrow because we didn't follow Him today?

A verse from the 103rd Psalm, verse 10 says, *He has not dealt with us after our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities*. How fortunate we are that His love endures forever. His faithfulness continues through all generations and He holds us in better regard than we often hold Him.

I'd like to share with you one account in the Book of Mormon. This is from the book of Mosiah and is a story of Alma and his brethren who had been living in the land of Helam. The Lamanites were marching toward Helam on their way to try to find and invade the land of Nephi. If you recall Alma and his people were very concerned about what was going to happen to them if the Lamanites came into Helam.

Alma had decided that he and brethren should submit themselves and deliver themselves to the Lamanites. So they gave themselves into the hands of the Lamanites and gave the Lamanites the possession of the land of Helam. The Lamanites told Alma that if he would show them the way to the land of Nephi they would grant them their lives and their liberty. Alma did show the Lamanites the way into the land of Nephi but the Lamanites reneged on their deal. Alma showed them the land of Nephi and the Lamanites didn't keep their promise and put guards on them and surrounded their land. They also put tasks upon the people. The Lamanites were harsh taskmasters the scriptures say. In other words they were slaves and were greatly afflicted because of the things the Lamanites asked them

to do.

The Lord provided an escape plan. He put the Lamanites into a deep sleep and Alma and his people fled into the wilderness during the night. They came into a valley that they called Alma and poured out their thanks to God. I want to read what they did. I'm reading verses 70-72 from the 11th chapter of Mosiah. *Yea, and in the valley of Alma they poured out their thanks to God because he had been merciful unto them, and eased their burdens, and had delivered them out of bondage; For they were in bondage, and none could deliver them, except it were the Lord their God. And they gave thanks to God, yea, all their men, and all their women, and all their children, that could speak, lifted their voices in the praises of their God. Who thanked the Lord for their deliverance? All the men, all the women and all the children that could speak gave thanks to the Lord. How much have we to be thankful for? Let God know. Acknowledge Him. Be a joyful people.*

I'd like to close with the words from King Benjamin also from the book of Mosiah 1:52, 53, 55, 56. *I say unto you, my brethren, that if you should render all the thanks and praise which your whole souls have power to possess, to that God who has created you, and has kept and preserved you, and has caused that ye should rejoice, and has granted that ye should live in peace one with another; I say unto you, that if ye should serve him who has created you from the beginning, and art preserving you from day to day, by lending you breath, that ye may live and move, and do according to your own will, and even supporting you from one moment to another; And behold, all that he requires of you, is to keep his commandments; and he has promised you that if ye would keep his commandments, ye should prosper in the land; And he never doth vary from that which he hath said; therefore, if ye do keep his commandments, he doth bless you, and prosper you.*

Thanks be to God.





October 2013

Observe and Assimilate "The Peaceable Things of the Kingdom"

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		1	2	3	4	5	
		To be a part of the Peaceable Kingdom					
		D&C 39:2b Hel 2:112	Alma 16:143 Rom 5:1-2	Mos 11:187-188 D&C 137:6a	Eth 5:6-10 Alma 16:151 Mor 10:13-17	2Ne 13:24-32	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Repent and be Baptized			Know the Holy Ghost			Purity	
Alma 16:218, Alma 14:103	Luke 15:17 Mor 8:29	Alma 17:18-24	Acts 2:38 Ps 104:24, 30	Luke 1:26-35 D&C 10:6-9	D&C 85:1c, 2a, 3a-b John 14:26, 15:26, 16:12	Prov 30:5 D&C 97:4, 98:4g	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
Show Wisdom and Purity			Be Peaceable and Gentle				
Phil 4:8 Mt 5:10	Titus 1:15-16 2Ne 6:35	Jas 3:17 1Pet 1:15-16	D&C 35:1b 2Tim 2:24	Mt 6:11 John 13:15	Rom 14:17 Gal 5:22-23	Mor 7:51-53 D&C 10:6-8	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
Do Good		Easy to be Entreated			Full of Mercy		
D&C 142:5b Gal 6:10	Mor 7:14-18	Alma 5:38-44	Ps 119:57-60 Alma 5:39	Prov 3:5-6, 12:20, 15:23, 25:11	Ps 6:2, 25:10 2Chron 6:14 Alma 16:217	Deut 5:10 Jacob 4:9 3Ne 4:43	
27	28	29	30	31			
Mercy	Good Fruit		No Partiality				
Alma 3:57 Titus 3:4-6 D&C 83:17c	Eph 5:9 Alma 16:152-173	Mor 7:3 Rom 14:17-19	Is 11:6-13 Is 32:17-18	Rom 12:9-18 Gen 6:64			

James 3:17-18

Prepared by Restoration Women's Ministries in conjunction with the High Priests Quorum.



October 2013

Sunday Schedule

	Oct. 6	Oct. 13	Oct. 20	Oct. 27	Nov. 3	
Presiding	Sherman Phipps	Jim Barber	Ron Smith	Ed Anderson	Alan Smith	
Speaking	Ron Smith	Steve Smith	Sherman Phipps	Jim Barber	Rodney Bastow	
Pianist		Pat Bolingbroke	Pat Bolingbroke	Pat Bolingbroke	Pat Bolingbroke	
Special Music	Di Smith	Alan Smith	Lynda Rolfe	Steve Smith	Jim Barber	
Family Devotions	Jim Barbers	Sue Beck	Steve Cunninghams	Michael Jordisons	Sherman Phipps	
Greeters	Alan Smiths	Steve Smiths	Gordon Winklers	Rod Bastows	Ed Anderson	
Custodians	Rob Rowlands	Alan Smiths	Ron Smiths	Rod Bastows	Jim Barbers	
Sunday Evening	Rob Rolfes	Ron Smiths	Rob Rowlands	Steve Smiths	Rob Rolfes	

Wednesday Night Prayer Service Schedule

	Oct. 2	Oct. 9	Oct. 16	Oct. 23	Oct. 30	Nov. 6
Location	Bob Rowlands	Alan Smiths	Steve Smiths	Rob Rolfes	Ron Smiths	Bob Rowlands
Presiding	Ed Anderson	George Knotts	Alan Smith	Michael Jordison	Sherman Phipps	Gordon Winkler

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday, Oct. 6 -- Priesthood Meeting at 8:30 a.m., Potluck dinner, Branch planning session following potluck dinner

Sunday, Oct. 13 -- Baptismal Service for Elise Jordison at Ron Smith home, 5 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 19 -- Fall outing at Barber farm, 2 p.m. pumpkin carving, 4 p.m. hayride, supper

Sunday, Oct. 20 -- Ordination service for Chris Cunningham at 11 a.m. service, potluck to follow

Happy Birthday: Michael Jordison (7), Valle Smith (8), Kathy Akers (11), Eunice Myers (12), Diane Anderson (21), Mary Wilson (21), Linda Barber (23), Kent Clisby (24), George Knotts (29) and any others we may have missed.

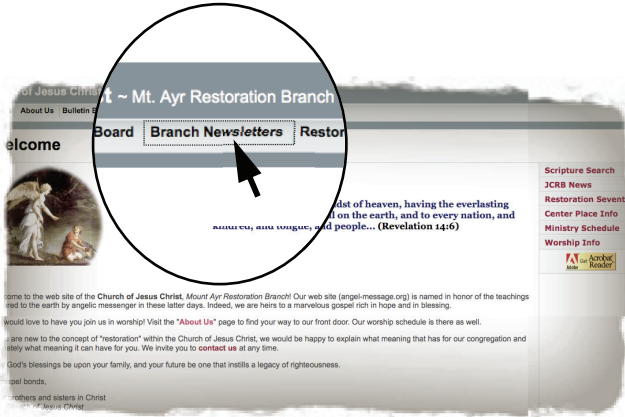


Church of Jesus Christ Mount Ayr Restoration Branch

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CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST - MT AYR RESTORATION BRANCH

And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come; and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. (Revelation 14:6-7)

News & Notes

Following the service.

Continued from front page

party on Tuesday, Dec. 31.

A witnessing is tentatively scheduled to be held at the Bell, MO branch sometime after the first of the year.

A branch retreat will be held at Lucas on the weekend of February 28-March 1. We hope everyone will put that weekend down on their schedules.

Special October activities

As noted in the planning, we have three special October activities planned.

Sunday, Oct. 13, Elise Jordison will

be baptized at a service at Ron and Di Smith's pond at 5 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 19, we will have our annual fall event at the Jim Barber farm near Bethany, MO.

Pumpkin carving will begin at 2 p.m. and everyone who doesn't want to carve can join the party at 4 p.m. We will have a hayride and campfire.

Sunday, Oct. 20, Chris Cunningham will be ordained to the office of teacher at the 11 a.m. service. There will be a potluck fol-